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ABSTRACT

Meaningful school reform requires a deeper understanding of how high schools evolved to their current condition. This book presents an objective history of American public secondary education in two ways--as a social history and as a synthesis of literature. Chapter 1 offers a brief history of American education, beginning with the debate over public/private schools, and tracing the development of the progressive education movement, the basic education movement, the Department of Education, and educational change. Chapter 2 explores the debate over what sort of moral principles, if any, should be taught in the classroom. Problems that principals and teachers face in their new roles are described in the third and fourth chapters. Chapter 5 describes how the school systems have become centralized, hierarchical bureaucracies. The sixth chapter examines ways in which schools can be decentralized, and the final chapter analyzes the issues inherent in the school choice controversy. An annotated bibliography of 38 sources is included. (LMI)

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